

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION - DETROIT

ZUFFA, LLC d/b/a Ultimate Fighting
Championship,

Plaintiff,

-against-

COMPLAINT

Civil Action No.

FAWAZ HAZIME, Individually, and as officer, director,
shareholder, principal, manager and/or member of
MANGO’S CAFÉ ON THE HILL LLC,

and

MANGO’S CAFÉ ON THE HILL LLC,

Defendants.

Plaintiff, ZUFFA, LLC d/b/a Ultimate Fighting Championship (hereinafter
“Plaintiff”), by its attorneys, LONSTEIN LAW OFFICE, P.C., complaining of the
Defendants herein respectfully sets forth and alleges, as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This is a civil action seeking damages for violation of 47 U.S.C. §§ 553 or 605,
et seq. and for copyright infringement under the copyright laws of the U.S. (17 U.S.C.
§101, et seq.).

2. This Court has jurisdiction under 17 U.S.C. §101, et seq. and 28 U.S.C.
Section §1331, which states that the district courts shall have original jurisdiction of all

civil actions arising under the Constitution, laws, or treaties of the United States; and 28 U.S.C. Section §1338(a) (copyright).

3. Upon information and belief, venue is proper in this court because, inter alia, a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred within Wayne County, which is within the Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division - Detroit (28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and 28 U.S.C. §102(a)(1)).

4. This Court has personal jurisdiction over the parties in this action. Defendants to this action had or have an agent or agents who has or had independently transacted business in the State of Michigan and certain activities of Defendants giving rise to this action took place in the State of Michigan; more particularly, Defendants' acts of violating federal laws and the proprietary rights of Plaintiff, as distributor of the encrypted satellite, radio, wired or internet streamed (IPTV) broadcast within the State of Michigan. Moreover, upon information and belief, Defendants have their principal place of business within the State of Michigan; thus, this Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants.

THE PARTIES

5. The Plaintiff is a Nevada Limited Liability Company with its principal place of business located at 6650 S. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89118 and duly registered to do business in the State of Michigan.

6. Plaintiff is the owner of the UFC 284 - Makhachev vs. Volkanovski Broadcast, including all undercard matches and the entire television Broadcast, which occurred on

February 11, 2023, via encrypted closed circuit television, encrypted satellite, radio signals and/or digital streaming technology (hereinafter referred to as the “Broadcast”).

7. Upon information and belief the Defendant, FAWAZ HAZIME, resides at 6463 Chase Rd, Dearborn, MI 48126.

9. Upon information and belief the Defendant, FAWAZ HAZIME, was the officer, director, shareholder, principal, manager and/or member of MANGO’S CAFÉ ON THE HILL LLC located at 14927 W Warren Ave, Dearborn, MI 48126.

10. Upon information and belief the Defendant, FAWAZ HAZIME, was the individual with supervisory capacity and control over the activities occurring within the establishment known as MANGO’S CAFÉ ON THE HILL LLC, located at 14927 W Warren Ave, Dearborn, MI 48126.

11. Upon information and belief the Defendant, FAWAZ HAZIME, received a financial benefit from the operations of MANGO’S CAFÉ ON THE HILL LLC, on February 11, 2023.

12. Upon information and belief, Defendant, FAWAZ HAZIME, was the individual with close control over the internal operating procedures and employment practices of MANGO’S CAFÉ ON THE HILL LLC, on February 11, 2023.

13. Upon information and belief the Defendant, MANGO’S CAFÉ ON THE HILL LLC, is a limited liability company licensed to do business in the State of Michigan and as was doing business as under the trade or fictitious name MANGO’S CAFÉ ON THE HILL.

14. Upon information and belief, the Defendant, MANGO’S CAFÉ ON THE HILL LLC, is located at 14927 W Warren Ave, Dearborn, MI 48126, and had a lawful occupancy capacity of approximately 76-100 people on February 11, 2023.

15. Upon information and belief, Defendants, *jointly and severally*, received a commercial benefit by not paying the commercial licensing fee to the Plaintiff for the Broadcast and obtaining same through alternative, illegal and illicit means and exhibiting within MANGO’S CAFÉ ON THE HILL on or about February 11, 2023.

COUNT I

16. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference all of the allegations contained in paragraphs “1” through “15,” inclusive, as though set forth herein at length.

17. Plaintiff is the owner of the UFC 284 - Makhachev vs. Volkanovski Broadcast, including all undercard matches and the entire television Broadcast, which occurred on February 11, 2023, via encrypted closed circuit television, encrypted satellite, radio signals and/or digital streaming technology over the internet (IPTV).

18. Plaintiff’s broadcast originated via encrypted closed circuit television, encrypted satellite, radio signals and/or digital streaming technology over the internet (IPTV) and was subsequently re-transmitted via Cable and/or satellite television or internet protocol streaming technology (“IPTV”) over Content Distribution Networks (“CDN’s) such as satellite, cable or digital streaming technology.

19. Plaintiff, for a licensing fee, entered into licensing agreements with numerous businesses in the State of Michigan, allowing them to publicly exhibit the Broadcast to

their patrons. Upon payment of the appropriate fees, Plaintiff authorized and enabled subscribers to access and display a decrypted signal of the Broadcast through their exclusive commercial distributor, Joe Hand Promotions, Inc..

20. The Broadcast was also available for non-commercial, private viewing through Plaintiff or its authorized online platforms for residential Pay-Per-View purchase and consumption via the internet. Owners of commercial establishments wishing to avoid paying Plaintiff's licensing fees can surreptitiously gain access to Plaintiff's Broadcasts by purchasing the programming online, without proper authorization, at residential rates, which are greatly discounted compared to the rates required for commercial entities and exhibit those broadcasts for their own commercial benefit and gain.

21. In order for anyone to obtain the Broadcast through a website intended for private, non-commercial viewing, an individual purchaser would be provided with terms of service which specifically provide for **non-commercial, personal use only**.

22. Upon information and belief, with full knowledge that the Broadcast was not to be received and exhibited by entities unauthorized to do so, the Defendants and/or their agents, servants, workmen or employees, without paying Plaintiff a fee or entering into an agreement with Plaintiff or its authorized agent for commercial exhibition, unlawfully intercepted, received and/or de-scrambled Plaintiff's encrypted signal and did exhibit the Broadcast at MANGO'S CAFÉ ON THE HILL LLC located at 14927 W Warren Ave, Dearborn, MI 48126 at the time of its transmission willfully and for purposes of direct or

indirect commercial advantage or private financial gain.

23. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants unauthorized engaged in the illegal; interception and receipt of Plaintiff's Broadcast by ordering programming intended for residential use and subsequently displayed it in the commercial establishment known as MANGO'S CAFÉ ON THE HILL LLC at 14927 W Warren Ave, Dearborn, MI 48126 for commercial gain and without authorization, or by such other means which are unknown to Plaintiffs and known only to Defendants.

24. Upon information and belief, Defendants and/or their agents, servants, workmen and/or employees intercepted Plaintiff's signal and/or used a device to intercept Plaintiff's Broadcast, which originated via encrypted satellite, cable or wired or wireless streaming radio signal technology, and then re-transmitted via Content Distribution Networks ("CDN's) such as satellite, cable or digital streaming technology.

25. There are multiple illegal and unauthorized methods of accessing the Broadcast, including but not limited to the traditional ways of pirating a broadcast (1) splicing an additional coaxial cable line or redirecting a wireless signal from an adjacent residence into a business establishment, decrypting unscrambling and receiving the closed circuit, "IPTV", cable or satellite Broadcast; (2) commercially misusing the residential cable, satellite or IPTV internet radio signals by registering as a residence when it is, in fact, a business; or (3) taking a lawfully obtained cable, IPTV or other streaming or satellite reception and decryption device or acquiring international Free-To-Air (FTA) broadcast signals emanating from outside the United States, into a business. (4) misusing

a residential digital stream acquired or intercepted from an over-the-top “OTT” technologies, used for the delivery of film and TV content via the internet, (5) Live or near-live Social Media Streaming or (6) Live Streaming Apps. The misuse of OTT technology can allow commercial misuse of residential broadcasting feeds through the internet from anywhere in the world.

26. Each of the above described methods would allow Defendants to access the Broadcast unlawfully and without Plaintiffs authorization. Prior to engaging in discovery, Plaintiff is unable to determine the manner in which Defendants obtained the Broadcast. However, it is logical to conclude that Defendants utilized one or more of the above-described methods intercept and exhibit the encrypted radio signal Broadcast within MANGO’S CAFÉ ON THE HILL without a license and without paying a license fee.

27. 47 U.S.C. §605 (a) prohibits the unauthorized reception and publication or use of radio communications such as the Broadcast transmission at issue in this litigation.

28. By reason of the aforementioned conduct, the aforementioned Defendants willfully violated 47 U.S.C. §605 (a).

29. By reason of the aforementioned Defendants violation of 47 U.S.C. §605 (a), Plaintiff has a private right of action pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §605.

30. As a result of the aforementioned Defendants’ willful violation of 47 U.S.C. §605 (a), Plaintiff is entitled to damages, in the discretion of this Court, under 47 U.S.C. §605 (e)(3)(C)(i)(II) and (ii) of up to the maximum amount of \$110,000.00 as to each Defendants.

31. Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §605, Plaintiff is also entitled to an award of full costs, interest and reasonable attorney's fees.

COUNT II

32. Plaintiff hereby incorporates paragraphs "1" through "31" as though fully set forth herein.

33. Upon information and belief, with full knowledge that the Broadcast was not to be received and exhibited by entities unauthorized to do so, the Defendant and/or his agents, servants, workmen or employees did exhibit the Broadcast at the above-captioned address at the time of its transmission willfully and for purposes of direct or indirect commercial advantage or private financial gain.

34. 47 U.S.C. §553 prohibits the unauthorized reception, interception and exhibition of any communications service offered over a cable system such as the transmission for which Plaintiff had the distribution rights as to commercial establishments thereto.

35. A significant amount of internet service in the United States is provided by Internet Service Providers ("ISP'S") who deliver and receive internet data transmissions via a combination of satellite and radio signals which are delivered to end-users via coaxial cable, fiber optic cable and telephone lines.

36. Upon information and belief, the Defendants individually, willfully and illegally intercepted said Broadcast when it was distributed and shown by cable television systems.

37. By reason of the aforementioned conduct, all of the aforementioned Defendants willfully violated 47 U.S.C. §553, thereby giving rise to a private right of action.

38. As a result of the aforementioned Defendants' violation of 47 U.S.C. §553, Plaintiff is entitled to damages, in an amount in the discretion of this Court, of up to the maximum amount of \$60,000.00, plus the recovery of full costs, interest and reasonable attorney's fees.

COUNT III

39. Plaintiff hereby incorporates paragraphs "1" through "38" as though fully set forth herein.

40. Plaintiff, is the copyright owner of the exclusive rights of distribution and public performance as to commercial establishments to the broadcast, including all undercard matches and the entire television Broadcast of UFC 284 - Makhachev vs. Volkanovski on February 11, 2023. The Certificate of Registration was filed with the U.S. Copyright Office on March 21, 2023 under Registration Number PA 2-403-027.

41. As a copyright holder of the rights to the UFC 284 - Makhachev vs. Volkanovski Broadcast, Plaintiff has rights to the Broadcast, including the right of distribution and exhibition licensing to commercial establishments.

42. Defendants never obtained the proper authority or license from Plaintiff, or its exclusive commercial distributor, Joe Hand Promotions, Inc., to publicly exhibit the UFC 284 - Makhachev vs. Volkanovski Broadcast on February 11, 2023.

43. Upon information and belief, the Defendants and/or their agents, servants, workers and employees unlawfully obtained the program through fraud and/or intercepted the UFC 284 - Makhachev vs. Volkanovski Broadcast, thereby enabling Defendants to publicly exhibit the Broadcast without a license for public performance or paying the appropriate licensing fee to Plaintiff.

44. By reason of the aforementioned conduct, the Defendants willfully violated 17 U.S.C. §501(a).

45. By reason of the aforementioned Defendants' violation of 17 U.S.C. §501(a), Plaintiff has a private right of action pursuant to 17 U.S.C. §501 (b).

46. As a result of Defendants' willful infringement of Plaintiff's copyrights and exclusive rights under copyright, Plaintiff is entitled to actual damages, in the discretion of this Court, under 17 U.S.C. §504(b).

47. Plaintiff is further entitled to its attorney's fees and costs pursuant to 17 U.S.C. §505.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff requests that judgment be entered in its favor and against the Defendant, *jointly and severally*, granting to Plaintiff the following:

(a) Declare that Defendant's unauthorized exhibition of the February 11, 2023, UFC 284 - Makhachev vs. Volkanovski Broadcast, violated the Federal Communications Act and that such violations were committed willfully and for purposes of Defendants' direct or indirect commercial advantage or for private financial gain,

(b) On the first cause of action, statutory penalties in an amount, in the discretion of this Court, against Defendants, *jointly and severally*, for a recovery between \$1,000 and \$10,000 as to each Defendant pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §605 and enhanced damages of up to \$100,000.00 for each defendant, *jointly and severally*, for their willful violation of 47 U.S.C. §605; and

(c) Attorney's fees, interest, costs of suit as to each Defendant pursuant to 47 U. S. C. § 605 (e)(3) (B) (iii).

(d) On the second cause of action, statutory penalties in an amount, in the discretion of this Court, against Defendants, *jointly and severally*, of up to the maximum amount of \$10,000.00 as to each Defendant for their violation of 47 U.S.C. §553 and enhanced damages of up to \$50,000.00 for their willful violation of 47 U.S.C. §553; and

(e) Attorney's fees, interest, costs of suit as to each Defendant pursuant to 47 U. S. C. §553 (c)(2)(C).

(f) On the third cause of action, actual damages in an amount, in the discretion of this Court, against Defendants, *jointly and severally*, of the actual costs Plaintiff incurred pursuant to §504(b); and

(g) Attorney's fees, interest, costs of suit as to the Defendants pursuant to 17 U.S.C. §505, together with such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: July 27, 2023
Ellenville, New York

**ZUFFA, LLC d/b/a Ultimate
Fighting Championship**

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